



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PAUL HEROUX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND BRISTOL DISTRICT

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RE: H2425 An Act to amend retirement benefits for certain employees of the Department of Correction

DT: 8 June 2016

Dear Chairman Dempsey,

Thank you for considering *H2425, An Act to amend retirement benefits for certain employees of the Department of Correction* before your committee. This bill was reported out favorably from the Joint Committee on Public Service in February of this year.

This bill would move Correctional Program Officers (CPOs) from Group 2 to Group 4 within the retirement system. This change in classification is necessary because of the nature of a CPOs' job. As front line workers in the Department of Correction, CPOs are responsible for the proper and appropriate classification of an inmate as they enter the facility and at subsequent hearings discussing reclassification due to incidents or program participation. They have direct access to inmates and are often called to provide security and supervisions to inmates throughout their time at a DOC facility. CPOs are required to attend and graduate from the same training Academy as Correctional Officers as well. This bill is not retroactive and would affect the approximately 320 CPOs currently working in DOC facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request on behalf of the CPOs in my district that *H2425 An Act to amend retirement benefits for certain employees of the Department of Correction* be released favorably and expeditiously from your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Heroux".

Paul Heroux